

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POISONED GRAY WOLF FOUND IN FRANK CHURCH WILDERNESS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement agents have recently confirmed poisoning as the cause of death of a male gray wolf that was found dead in central Idaho.

The collared wolf, known as B-204, was found to have been killed by ingesting meat laced with a grey granular poison known as "Temik," a restricted use pesticide commonly applied to agricultural crops such as potatoes.

B-204 had been collared by Nez Perce Tribe wolf recovery personnel in Trapper Creek, a Middle Fork Salmon River tributary, on June 27, 2004. At that time, biologists estimated the wolf to be about one to two years old. Wolf monitoring signals indicated the B-204 dispersed from the newly-documented Golden Creek Pack some time after February 16, 2005, and was located again on April 22, 2005.

During a telemetry flight on May 14, 2005, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game received a mortality signal from B-204's radio collar. The animal was found less than a mile from his April 22 location, within yards of a pack trail in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area, in the Clear Creek tributary of Panther Creek. Service Law Enforcement Agents and Idaho Department of Fish and Game Conservation Officers investigated the scene.

Temik's chemical name is "Aldicarb," and it is a water soluble chemical used for integrated pest management. Use of this chemical other than for agricultural purposes, such as baiting animals, is illegal. Animals or small children are most susceptible to poisoning due to ingestion of this highly toxic product.

Scott Bragonier, a Special Agent for the Service, cautions outdoor enthusiasts about exposure to suspicious bait or grey granules on the ground, and to contact law enforcement authorities immediately if located. "In this case, Temik not only killed a gray wolf, but it also poses a potential

public safety hazard. We are very interested in finding whoever is responsible for the crime. If anyone has information about illegal use of chemicals or the killing of wolves, please contact the Service's Law Enforcement Division. Callers may remain anonymous." said Bragonier.

The killing of an animal protected under the Endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. The manufacturer of Temik, Bayer Crop Science, is working with the Service on this investigation. Bayer Crop Science and the Service are offering a reward for information leading to an arrest or conviction of the person or persons responsible for the poisoning of this wolf.

Persons with information about this case, or any other illegal wolf killings, are urged to call Service Law Enforcement at (208) 523-0855, or to call the Idaho Citizens Against Poaching Hotline at 1-800-632-5999.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million acre-National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.